

VZCZCXRO6055
OO RUEHDA
DE RUEHAK #0399/01 0541412
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 231412Z FEB 07
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1069
RUEKJCS/CJCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC//PA
RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU
INFO RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 7839
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 2185
RUEHDA/AMCONSUL ADANA 1683
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 5760
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 5505
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2132
RUEUITH/DET 1 39LG ANKARA TU
RHMFIUU/USDOCO 6ATAF IZMIR TU
RHMFIUU/39OSS INCIRLIK AB TU
RHMFIUU/AFOSI DET 523 IZMIR TU
RHMFIUU/39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU
RHMFIUU/AFOSI DET 522 INCIRLIK AB TU
RUEUITH/AFLO ANKARA TU

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 000399

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)
SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2007

THE TURKISH PRESS

2007

A QUICK LOOK AT

February 23,

In Today's Papers

Gul on Iraqi Kurdish Leaders, Possible Iraq Division
Hurriyet, Milliyet, Sabah, Radikal, Cumhuriyet, Zaman, Yeni Safak
and others report Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, commenting on how
to tackle the PKK in northern Iraq, told the Islamist-oriented Kanal
7 TV that Turkey should talk "even with its enemies" if need be.
"Talabani and Barzani have visited Turkey several times. Our
meetings with them will not amount to recognition of an independent
region; we can show them their mistakes," said Gul, adding, "The US
and Europeans think Turks and Kurds are enemies -- we are not." He
also stressed that an independent state in the north of Iraq was a
"pipe dream," and that the Iraqi Kurdish leaders knew that such a
thing was "not possible." Gul noted that a fragmentation of Iraq
would inevitably pull in neighboring countries. "A division of Iraq
will stoke unending wars," said the FM.

Missing US Guns Used in Turkey in Political Killings
Hurriyet, Milliyet, Radikal, Cumhuriyet, Zaman, Yeni Safak and
others say some of the guns donated by the United States to Iraq
that went missing have been found in Turkey. Fourteen of the
missing guns, produced by the Austrian company Glock, were used in
politically motivated assassinations --- in the Council of State
(Danistay) attack and in the murder of Roman Catholic priest Andrea
Santoro in the Black Sea city of Trabzon. The Danistay attack in
Ankara last year left one senior judge dead and four others wounded.
Missing guns were seized in operation, which cancelled the Cabinet decision freezing
the assets of Yasin Al-Qadi, a wealthy Saudi businessman on then UN
list of terror financiers. Acting in line with the UN request to
freeze assets of terrorists appearing on updated the UN terror list

after 9/11, Turkey in 2001 froze the assets of Yassin Al- Qadi, who allegedly has ties with a number of AK party members, including Finance Minister Kemal Unakitan, and banned him from entering the country. However, Al-Qadi challenged the Cabinet decision and started a long legal fight, in which the government and Prime Minister Erdogan later intervened. The result was that the Council of State 10th department's overturned the Cabinet decision on Al-Qadi, releasing his assets. As a result of the most recent decision, the assets have been frozen again. Since the decision of the Board is binding and final, Al-Qadi cannot have a say on his properties in Turkey unless the Cabinet makes a new decision.

Editorial Commentary: Iran

Yilmaz Oztuna observes in the conservative *Turkiye*: "The UNSC deadline for Iran to stop its uranium enrichment program has expired. Iran previously defied the US and reiterated that the nuclear program would continue. However, the Iranian long term attitude to the UNSC may be not as harsh as one would expect from the current Iranian regime. Iran may use soft language in order to gain another six months, and to tie the hands of the US. Recent reports indicate that both the US and the UK have concluded their war plans against Iran. Given those military plans, Iran will do its best to invalidate a war strategy against itself. It is likely that Iran will eventually agree to compromise and use this as a

ANKARA 00000399 002 OF 003

trump card to get some serious concessions from Israel and the US. Given the success of the blackmailing technique used by North Korea, we have reason to believe that Iran will go for the same tactic as well."

Sami Kohen comments in the mainstream daily *Milliyet*: "Following the expiration of the UNSC deadline, the Iran crisis went back to its starting point. From now on we will probably see scenarios resembling tiffs more than dialogue. Washington has already started giving signals in this regard. US military ships were sent to the Gulf while international outlets, including BBC, highlight that the war plans against Iran to damage the country's military and strategic infrastructure are ready. Even though such plans do not necessarily indicate an actual war situation, the overall tension and scenes of shows of force are always reason for worry. The sensible way of dealing with the Iran issue goes through diplomacy, but Iran does not seem willing to be a part of it. The alternative is the imposition of more sanctions by the UNSC against Iran, but it is not easy to adopt another list of sanctions neither is there a guarantee of achieving the desired result. In this picture, the North Korean example comes in. There are differences between Iran and North Korea nevertheless that does not rule out the possibility for settling the crisis in the same way as the North Korean crisis was everything, there is still Kurds in Turkey will regard an attack against Kirkuk as an attack directed against them. Kirkuk is an internal matter for Iraq and any attack on it will bring Kurds against the Turkish state." *Yeni Safak* reports that the Diyarbakir prosecutor has initiated an investigation against Aydogdu for his remarks.

Meanwhile, *Milliyet* reports that two officials from the DTP branch in Van have been arrested following a police search of the office. Reportedly, many publications linked to the PKK were seized by the police during search.

Survey: AKP, CHP will Pass the Election Threshold, DTP to Run Independents

Milliyet carries the results of a public opinion survey conducted by the ruling AKP in 81 provinces with 200,000 people. The survey shows that only AKP and CHP will be able to pass the ten-percent threshold, with AKP getting 40 percent of votes and CHP 20 percent. In southeast Turkey, only AKP and the Kurdish DTP will manage to pass the threshold.

Meanwhile, papers report the Kurdish party DTP has decided to run independent candidates in the upcoming general elections in Turkey. DTP's vote of 6.2 percent in the last elections was not sufficient to pass the threshold. The party expects to win 20-25 seats in the parliament by the votes it hopes to receive in south and southeast Turkey. If it secures 20 seats or more, the DTP will be able to

form a group in the parliament.

Crime Rate Increased Sixty Percent in Turkey

According to Turkish Security Department reports, the crime rate has increased 785,510 crimes were committed daily. In 2005, rose to 294 in 2006. Criminal offences, 11,747 narcotics smuggling, 1742 organized crime, 84 large smuggling, and 8 nuclear smuggling. Radikal says the decreasing number of detentions -- 61 percent rise in crimes compared to only 11 percent rise in detentions -- strengthened the claims that the Turkish police has

ANKARA 00000399 003 OF 003

gone on a "work slowdown" to protest EU adjustment laws.

TV Highlights
NTV (6 a.m.)

Domestic News

- A prosecutor in Istanbul has asked the Interior Ministry for permission to initiate a lawsuit against Mayor Mustafa Sarigul and organizers of the Hrant Dink funeral march for the placards that said "We are all Armenians" and the "racist slogans" that were chanted at the funeral of slain Armenian journalist Hrant Dink.
- The Turkish parliamentary commission for the investigation of "honor killings" has decided to set up a special committee to monitor incidents of domestic violence.
- On February 27, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands will travel to Turkey to meet with President Sezer, Parliament Speaker Ariincluding schools and hospitals in Turkey are not built to the right specifications and are in danger of collapsing. A five-storey apartment block in Istanbul collapsed earlier this week.

International News

- Turkish Cyprus "foreign minister" Turgay Avci said his country was planning to open representation offices in ten countries by the end of the year.
- Greek Cypriot Archbishop Chrysostomos II and Turkish Cypriot religious leader Ahmet Yonluer met for the first time since 1974. The meeting was hosted by Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) President Rene van der Linden, who traveled to Cyprus in an effort to promote dialogue between the two communities.
- The Chinese government has launched a nationwide campaign after a survey found that nearly 14 percent of teens in China are prone to becoming "Internet addicts." Treatment reportedly includes electric shocks.
- Norway hosts a 48-nation meeting in support of a ban on cluster bombs which campaigners blame for killing and maiming thousands of civilians, many of them children.

<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

WILSON